Tax Concession to Encourage Basic Research

Representative Richard M. Simpson (R.-Pa.) and Representative Thomas B. Curtis (R.-Mo.), members of the tax-writing House Committee on Ways and Means, have announced the joint sponsorship of identical bills to amend the Internal Revenue Code so as to "encourage basic research in science by the allowance of a tax credit for contributions and other expenditures for basic research in science." The bill would provide a tax concession for contributions for basic research to universities and nonprofit organizations, as well as a tax concession to industries that conduct basic research.

The concession in the case of contributions would take the form of a tax credit of 90 percent of the contributions made, with a further limitation that the credit may not exceed 5 percent of the tax. In the case of basic research activity by industry, the credit would be limited to 75 percent of the expenditures, with the limitation that the credit not exceed 3 percent of the tax. The cosponsors of this legislation have indicated that the proposed amendments to the Internal Revenue Code would give effect to the National Science Foundation recommendation to increase basic research that was contained in the NSF *Report to the President on Basic Research* of October 1957.

Industrial Development of Reactors

The U.S. atomic industry during 1957 completed the construction of 16 nuclear reactors, including seven power-type reactors and nine reactors for research and test purposes. Of the seven power-type reactors, one is a privately owned power-producing reactor, four are prototype power plants built for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, and two are for the propulsion of naval submarines. Of the nine research and test reactors, six are located abroad, one is privately owned in the U.S., and two are owned by the AEC.

In addition to the completed reactors, U.S. industry during the year had 59 reactors under construction, 35 of which are power–type reactors, 24 research and test reactors. Of the 35 power–type reactors, 28 are reactors or reactor prototypes for the propulsion of naval vessels, four are power reactors for private U.S. owners, one is a power reactor for export, one is a power prototype to be owned by the AEC, and one is for the propulsion of a merchant ship which will be owned by the U.S. Government. Of the 24 research and test reactors, 13 are for export, six are for ownership by the U.S. Government, and five are for private U.S. buyers.

During the year industry also received contracts for the construction of 10 additional reactors, including two power reactors for private U.S. owners, one power reactor for ownership by the AEC and operation by a local government organization, one power reactor for export, one prototype reactor for the propulsion of naval vessels, three research and test reactors for export, and two research reactors for private U.S. buyers.

These are in addition to 28 small research, training, and exhibit reactors that were built or under construction by U.S. industry during 1957 for purchasers in the U.S. and abroad. (The totals given here do not include reactors being constructed or completed by Atomic Energy Commission Laboratories.)

Population

Population growth in the United States continued at a record level during 1957, amounting to about 3 million persons, according to estimates recently completed by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. There were an estimated 172,790,000 persons in our population at the beginning of this year, compared with 169,800,000 a year earlier. For the second year in succession, population growth was approximately 3 million. In each year since 1947 population growth has exceeded 2½ million and the rate of increase has approximated 1.7 percent. In the 8-year period since the beginning of this decade the increase in population exceeded 22 million, a population gain 3¼ million greater than that which occurred during the entire 1940 decade.

The sustained high level of births has been the primary factor in the continued rapid growth of the population. There were 4,302,000 babies born in 1957, the largest number on record. About 32 million babies have been born during the past 8 years, or more than the total number born in the whole decade of the 1940's.

News Briefs

Japan is establishing a central documentation center for science and technology. It will have its headquarters in Tokyo and will be known as the Japan Information Center of Science and Technology. A semi-official organization, it will be supported both by government and private funds.

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The American Medical Association has announced that it will soon publish a new, 16-page tabloid newspaper called the *A.M.A. News* that will be distributed every 2 weeks to approximately 200,000 physicians. The first issue is expected to be ready for release at the annual A.M.A. convention in San Francisco, 23–27 June.

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Argonne National Laboratory has been authorized by the Atomic Energy Commission to construct a Fuels Technology Center at the laboratory site, near Lemont, Ill. The new center is expected to cost about $10 million.

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The governing body of the World Health Organization, the World Health Assembly, will hold its 11th session beginning 28 May in Minneapolis, Minn., on the invitation of the U.S. Government and the city of Minneapolis. The meeting is expected to last 3 weeks. The World Health Assembly, composed of delegations from WHO's 88 member states, decides the organization's policies, program, and budget. It is not a conference or a convention but a business meeting that makes the decisions necessary for continuing the organization's work.

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The Max Planck Institute for Physics of the Stratosphere and Ionosphere in Lindau, Kreis Northeim, Germany, has been renamed the Max Planck Institute for Aeronomy (Max-Planck-Institut für Aeronomie).

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A translation of a report on Russia's 5-year plan for research in pharmacology is available at the National Institutes of Health. The report cites successes attained in pharmacologic research during the period 1950–55 and discusses expectations for the period 1956–1960. Copies of the translation, *Problems Involved in Five-Year Plan for Research in Pharmacology for 1956–1960,* are available from the Publications and Reports Section of the Scientific Reports Branch, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda 14, Md.

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Polish scientists have prepared twilight tables to the year 2020 as a contribution to the International Geophysical Year. The tables provide a means for calculating the interval during which the atmosphere is illuminated after sunset and before sunrise. The tables are continuations of earlier ones prepared in Poland in 1932–34. They have been published under the auspices of the Polish Academy of Sciences and are accompanied by explanations in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

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Non–Conventional Technical Information Systems in Current Use is a new report, prepared by the National Science Foundation's Office of Scientific Information, that describes 25 representative